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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,059	06/27/2003	Gotthard Schleicher	02P05875	4148
24252	7590	01/03/2005	EXAMINER BLOUNT, ERIC	
OSRAM SYLVANIA INC 100 ENDICOTT STREET DANVERS, MA 01923			ART UNIT 2636	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/607,059

Applicant(s)

SCHLEICHER, GOTTHARD

Examiner

Eric M. Blount

Art Unit

2636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6 and 11 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12222003.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
2. The following title is suggested: *Supply unit for communication with at least one LED unit.*

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because they fail to include proper identifiers. The figure should be labeled Figure 1. Further, all the components in the drawing should be provided with a proper text label. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. **The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures.** If the examiner does not accept

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the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. **Claims 5 and 6** are objected to because of the following informalities: The use of the word "it" on line one of both claims. The term "it" is vague and indefinite, the term should be replaced with the subject matter which the term makes reference to. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. **Claims 8 and 12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. The term "small" in claims 8 and 12 is a relative term, which renders the claim indefinite. The term "small" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

8. Claim 12 recites the limitations "the impedance" in line 1 and "the LED impedance" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

a. A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Leijer [U.S. Patent No. 6236170].

Regarding **claims 1 and 4**, de Leijer discloses a supply unit for at least one LED unit (Figure 1). The supply unit has a detection unit designed for detecting the identity of the LED unit by means of electrical quantities (column 6, lines 55-60). Supply terminals supply power to the LED unit and the identity of the LED unit is detected via the supply terminals (column 3, lines 18-44). The central control unit functions as the detection unit as it detects signals identifying the LED unit. In operation, the detection unit sends an electrical signal to the LED unit and the LED unit responds with an electrical signal (column 3, line 58 – column 4, line 7). This exchange is done via supply terminals (column 6, lines 55-60). De Leijer does not specifically disclose that the detection unit and supply unit must be a unitary element. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant that the supply

unit and detection unit could be a unitary element. This is evident from the teachings found in column 6, lines 55-60). If message exchange takes place on the supply terminals it is obvious that the central controller could be located at the supply unit where the supply terminals originate.

As for **claim 2**, de Leijer discloses a control unit that controls the power supply of the LED unit on the basis of the detected identity of the LED unit (column 3, line 58 - column 4, line 7). The central control unit sends a message for controlling the operation of LED to the LED unit.

As for **claims 3, 7, 10, 14 and 15**, Figure 1 shows that the detection and the power supply are effected exclusively via the supply terminals. See also column 6, lines 55-60.

Regarding **claim 5**, de Leijer discloses that the at least one LED unit is controlled on the basis of the detected identity of the LED unit. De Leijer shows that central control unit sends an addressed message containing control content to the LED unit. The LED unit is adapted to respond to the message based upon its address. The response is considered the final step of detecting the presence of the LED unit. Upon receiving the message the LED unit can be powered. If a proper response is not determined it is an indication that no power is supplied to the LED unit.

As for **claim 6**, the invention of de Leijer can be used to detect malfunctions in lighting units. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that detecting information on the LED unit would take place several times during the operation of the LED unit (column 5, lines 30-42).

As for **claims 9 and 13**, it has been noted that the reference shows an LED unit with at least one LED and supply terminals for the power supply of the supply unit. De Leijer also discloses an identification unit with technical properties that can be registered during the detection of the identity of the LED unit (Figure 1). The identification unit can be identified via the supply terminals. The local control unit is considered an identification unit. In lines 24-30 the reference shows that each local control unit has a writable memory. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant that any type of information could be stored in the memory, including technical properties.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. **Claim 11** is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but it appears that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

12. Claims 8 and 12 appear to be allowable over the prior art of record if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd is overcome.

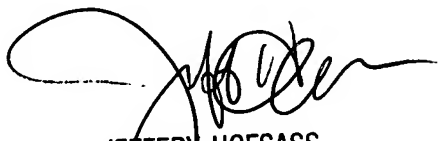
13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Seib, Korkala, Bucks et al, Grouev et al, and Bernardo all disclose LED monitoring and supply units that were useful during the examination of this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Blount whose telephone number is (571) 272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric M. Blount
Examiner
Art Unit 2636



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